

15 February 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Inspector General

SUBJECT : Legislative Counsel

OGC Has Reviewed

1. The Legislative Counsel is frequently assigned action on problems raised in conversations between Congressmen and Agency personnel. Action is made unnecessarily difficult when the Legislative Counsel has not been present at these meetings. Three recent typical examples are cited:

a. Congressman Hillings talked to the Director about a bill to authorize the entrance of certain defectors into the United States [REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1A

[REDACTED] Subsequently, the Congressman sent a draft of his proposed bill for CIA comment. In coordinating the comments difficulty was experienced as the draft bill did not clearly indicate the Congressman's aim and those working on the matter were not aware of the views expressed by the Congressman or the position taken by the Director.

b. The Legislative Counsel has been working with Congressman Kersten's Baltic Committee and its counsel for several months. When Mr. Kersten called on the Director recently for assistance, [REDACTED] was present and was designated as liaison officer to work with the Legislative Counsel. In view of established relationships with the Committee, it would have been helpful to be present at the meeting with Mr. Kersten.

25X1A9a

c. [REDACTED] was sent on 10 February to brief Chairman Taber on current developments in the Soviet sphere. Mr. Sprankle of the Committee Staff, with whom the Legislative Counsel maintains liaison, was present at this meeting. It would have been helpful to have participated in this meeting to meet any possible indication of Chairman Taber's interest in view of the coming CIA budget appearance.

2. It is fully understood that it may not be feasible and in some cases desirable to have the Legislative Counsel present at all Congressional meetings, but when it can easily be done and no special considerations stand in the way it would greatly assist in the proper performance of the Legislative Counsel's functions.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

OGC:ELKH:jeb
cc: Legislative Counsel
OGC chrono
subject